

I am opposed to the "broadcast flag" concept insofar as it would prevent the current state of "fair use." Viewing of off-the-air content is "paid" for in various ways. Time-shifting is an accepted and needed practice. Anything which prevents it should not be permitted.

The purchase of content, such as a DVD is "mostly" for the intellectual property. A consumer should be permitted to backup that intellectual property, for that is WHAT is paid for. Why should the consumer be required to pay more than once for that intellectual property? The medium it comes on is a very small cost of the entire package.

Finally, a broadcast flag or any other copy protection scheme will absolutely not have any affect on piracy. Any number of people throughout the world will be able to defeat the flag and once a digital file is released (probably by the Internet), nothing will be able to stop it from being distributed.

Throughout the history of our nation it is the "rule of law" which guides us. Pirating content is illegal. We have laws and procedures to deal with it. The moral thing to do is to allow the citizen his or her rights, not to remove them for the ADDITIONAL monetary gain of content producers.

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